

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



Cora Campbell, Commissioner

Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Heather Fitch, BSAI Area Management Biologist
Trent Hartill, BSAI Asst. Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 581-1239
Fax: (907) 581-1572

Dutch Harbor Area Office
P.O. Box 920587
Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692

Date Issued: Dec. 20, 2011

**2012 ALEUTIAN ISLANDS DISTRICT STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD
GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL AND FISHERY OPENING ANNOUNCED**

The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2012 Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery is 20,767,332 pounds. The GHL will be apportioned so that a maximum of 70 percent is available prior to June 10 (A season), and 30 percent is available beginning June 10 (B season). Unharvested A season GHL will rollover to the B season; however, the B season GHL may not exceed 70 percent of the total fishery GHL.

		GHL (pounds)
A Season	prior to June 10	14,537,132
B Season	beginning on June 10	6,230,200
TOTAL:		20,767,332

Beginning January 1, 2012 the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery will open between 175° W long. and 178° W long. to vessels 60 feet overall length (OAL) or less using trawl, pot, and jig gear, and vessels 58 feet OAL or less using longline gear. During a state-waters Pacific cod fishery, the Steller sea lion Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives implemented by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) prior to January 1, 2011 will be in effect. These closures are located in Table 5 to 50 CFR part 679 (69 FR 75865, December 20, 2004), posted on the NMFS website at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/index/frules/frules.asp?Yr=2004> and Table 12 to 50 CFR part 679 (73 FR 76136, December 15, 2008), posted on the NMFS website at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/index/frules/frules.asp?Yr=2008>.

Excluding the area from 175° W long. to 178° W long., all other state waters west of 170° W long. will initially be managed under parallel Pacific cod rules with Steller sea lion protection measures consistent with the Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives issued by NMFS

-continued-

effective January 1, 2011, posted on the NMFS website at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/regs/default.htm#all>. Opening of the state-waters Pacific cod fishery east of 175° W long. and west of 178° W long will be announced in a subsequent news release.

In addition to the Steller sea lion protection measures listed above, all waters within three nautical miles of the Steller sea lion site on Kanaga Island/Ship Rock (51°46.70' N. latitude, 177° 20.72' W. longitude), are closed to the taking of Pacific cod during a state-waters or parallel Pacific cod season. The Aleutian Islands coral garden protection areas and Aleutian Islands habitat conservation area closures are in effect during both the parallel season and state-waters season.

Vessel operators transitioning between the state-waters Pacific cod fishery and a federal or parallel fishery must deliver all Pacific cod on board prior to participating in or exiting the Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery. Additionally, vessels must notify the ADF&G in Dutch Harbor prior to entering or exiting the state-waters fishery. Vessel operators can contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor by telephone at (907) 581-1239 or via e-mail at trent.hartill@alaska.gov or heather.fitch@alaska.gov.

The state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the Aleutian Islands District is a non-exclusive vessel registration area. Vessels must register for the fishery with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) prior to participating. Vessel operators are required to obtain an interim-use permit card for miscellaneous finfish from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission before vessel registration.

The daily harvest limit of Pacific cod in the state-waters season for each vessel is 150,000 pounds round weight, with a maximum of 150,000 pounds of unprocessed Pacific cod on board the vessel at any time. A person may not have more processed fish on board the vessel than the round weight equivalent of fish reported on ADF&G fish tickets during the Aleutian Islands state-waters Pacific cod season. All Pacific cod caught must be retained, and any overage must be immediately reported to the department, with proceeds from the overage forfeited to the state. Enforcement action against vessel operators who incur overages of the daily or trip limit will be vigorously pursued.

For more information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

-end-